



March 2009

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# San Francisco Police Department Struggles to Solve Homicides

By Herman Wong

In the last two years murder rates have increased in San Francisco, while clearance rates have declined. Last year the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) solved only roughly one-third of homicide cases. As the City searches for a new police chief, a pressing concern is how the murder clearance rate – the percentage of homicide cases closed – can be improved. "Twenty, 20, and even 40 percent [clearance rate] is not acceptable," said Theresa Sparks, San Francisco Police Commission president.

Homicides in San Francisco nearly broached triple digits in 2007 and 2008, with 99 and 98 murders respectively. In 2007, 39 percent of San Francisco's homicide cases were closed, according to SFPD statistics, though media reports place the rate at 25 percent. A recent *San Francisco Chronicle* story put the City's 2008 clearance at 30 percent. SFPD did not

respond to repeated requests by the *View* for detailed homicide statistics for the last two years.

SFPD's homicide clearance rate has declined since 2004, according to a 2007 report by the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Police closed 49 percent of cases in 2004. This percentage dipped to 35 percent in 2005, and 29 percent in 2006. Homicide cases can be closed as a result of arrests or due to the death of the primary suspect.

According to Daniel Landry of the African American Community Police Relations Board, low homicide clearance rates are partially the result of a lack of police department engagement with the affected communities. The police are more apt to share information on a murder case with the media than the family of the victim, Landry said. "The facts show there's something deeply wrong with the way [SFPD is] investigating

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# San Francisco Attempts to Reduce Pollution at New Residential Developments

By Andrea de Brito

Sporting a Chinese lucky number in its address, 888 7th Street sits across the street from the 280 Freeway, Golden Gate Disposal and Recycling offices, and the Caltrain tracks. The recently constructed complex is noticeable in the middle of Potrero Hill's old industrial belt. Its exterior is clad with futuristic-looking lime green sheets of glass, installed not only for modern appeal but to block the courtyard and the building's interior spaces from noise and air pollution. Though sleek signs with the developer's contact information still decorate the building's sides, all of its units have been sold.

Similar condominium complexes are popping up throughout Southeast San Francisco, often clustered hard against the 101 and 280 freeways. It's difficult to find space to develop in the City, which is why locating residential buildings next to freeways, once undesirable locations, have become the norm.

On the other side of the train tracks from 888, inaccessible from 7th Street due to a fence that runs along the tracks, is a complex built by Bridge Corporation, an affordable housing developer that's currently redeveloping the Potrero Hill public housing complexes. Sharing pungent

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# Who's head is this?



Howard Gelman, a KQED Radio technician has been photographing guests from his perspective for the last 10 years. See page 17 to find out who this is and to view other celebrity heads.

# Parking Permits May be Coming to Dogpatch

By Sarah Marloff

A hearing over a proposed new parking permit zone in the Dogpatch neighborhood was held at City Hall on January 30. Under the plan, non-permitted parking would be restricted to no more than four hours during weekdays on Tennessee Street between 20th and Tubbs, 20th Street between Pennsylvania and Tennessee – excluding the freeway overpass – 22nd Street between Tennessee and Minnesota, and Minnesota Street between 19th and 22nd streets. Hearing Officer John Newlin and Tom Forks, a Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) traffic engineer, presided over the meeting, which attracted nearly two dozen Dogpatch residents and business owners. The room was thick with tension as the attendees expressed their differing perspectives.

Currently there are no time limits on parking in the area, which has led to fierce competition for spaces by Caltrain commuters and local workers. Dogpatch residents feel crowded out of their own neighborhood, sparking a movement, led by the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, to create a new permit zone. DPT surveyed the area, determining that a majority of residents wanted permits, and that in excess of 80 percent of available parking spaces are taken during weekdays.

Residents were particularly unhappy with the fact that Caltrain commuters left their parked cars in the neighborhood all day. One meeting participant asserted that travelers en route to San Francisco International Airport left their cars in front of his house for several days at a time. According to Dogpatch resident Janet Carpinelli, the permit proposal "...will help the residents, especially those who work from home. It's helpful for visitors coming and going. Give a turnover but also some time."

Many meeting participants reported that they couldn't run errands during the day for fear of not finding parking upon returning home. Several mothers pointed-out the difficulties of searching for convenient parking while transporting groceries and children. "Four hours is a great compromise," exclaimed one attendee.

A resident who opposed the measure claimed that it "does not help my building at all. I'll be gone during this time [of the day]." However, most of the opposition came from local business owners, who were concerned that their staff would be unable to find parking. Under the plan each business will be eligible for one permit, regardless of their number of employees, as well as an opportunity

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# Publisher's View Organic Energy

By Steven J. Moss

Americans love technological solutions to tough problems. Too many insects eating the crops? Pesticides will take care of that. Gasoline running out? No problem, let's use electricity for our cars! Natural gas-powered electricity becoming environmentally costly? Slap-up some solar panels!

Our fascination with technology is well-earned. Almost since the birth of the Republic, America has ridden a wave of new inventions to greater prosperity. The cotton gin dramatically reduced the amount of farm laborers needed to harvest cotton, undermining the need for slaves. The steam engine led to transcontinental railroads, which opened-up settlement routes from east to west, and helped create the nation.

More recently, technology has enabled us to solve vexing problems without having to alter our lifestyles. Adoption of the catalytic converter in automobiles dramatically reduced nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbon emissions, lowering health-threatening air pollution while enabling us to continue to speed along our way in our cherished cars.

While technology can help solve problems, it brings a host of other challenges. Highly mechanized, chemically-dependent agriculture brought us winter-time fruits and food abundance. But it also degrades the land, destroys family farms, and threatens public health. And reliance on laboratory-created seed strains, while enhancing yields, can create a dependency on large corporations, and prompt risks associated with catastrophic crops failures, placing all of our seeds in one basket, so to speak. Diversity is the best defense against systematic collapse. A given disease or natural calamity may wipe out one crop of many, but not all of them.

Similarly, an energy strategy that focuses on replacing fossil fuels to power our centrally-structured electricity system with large-scale renewable facilities will help reduce

our dependence on foreign oil, and slash polluting air and greenhouse gas emissions. But pursuing such an approach would be expensive, concentrate the risk of failures into a handful of technologies, and maintain a status quo in which we depend on an unknown engineer typically located far away from where we live to keep the lights on.

In the case of our food system, the antidote to an overly technological agriculture has been organic farming, in which fewer chemicals are used, and slow foods, which emphasize place-specific, labor-intensive, products. Since not everyone can afford organic strawberries or artisan goat cheese, these alternatives supplement, rather than fully replace, large, technologically-dependent farming. Over time, however, thoughtfully cultivated foods will hopefully occupy a greater portion of our diets.

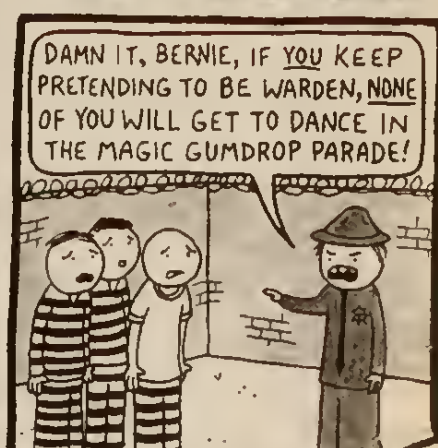
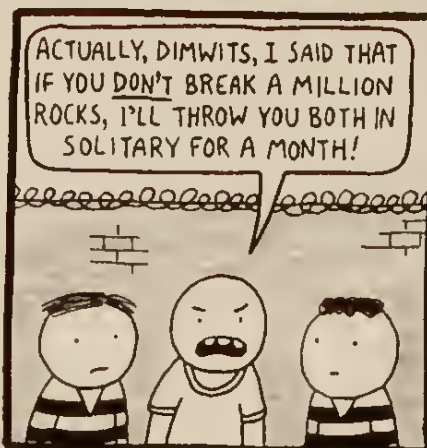
Smart growth offers another example of this approach. During the last century much of the United States was developed along a similar spoke and wheels model as the electricity system. Large cities were connected to suburbs by expansive freeways, producing a fossil fuel-powered car-dependent culture that, in many places, sucked people out of densely-packed urban areas and deposited them on quarter-acre spreads. Diversity, in the form of commercial districts populated by home-grown stores and restaurants and a greater chance of accidental mixing of different cultural and ethnic groups, was replaced by homogeneous chain stores serving segregated suburbanites.

Over the past few decades, smart growth planners have advocated for a return to denser neighborhoods, serviced by multiple transportation options – including walking, biking, and shared taxis – and more diverse, locally-owned, shopping opportunities. The goal is to create less energy-intensive, more reliable, human-scale and environmentally-

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Editorial and policy decisions are made by the staff.

All staff positions are voluntary.

Published monthly.

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# Short Cuts

### Live Park

Despite intensive lobbying – including from **Potrero Hill Parents Association (PHPA)** members who want to maintain full services at Jackson Park – the **San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission** voted to cut \$11.4 million from the Recreation and Park Department's budget. Under the Commission's proposal, 55 recreation center staff will be laid-off, likely leading to public clubhouses being open only half-time. In response to the proposed reductions, some PHPA members are calling for **Live Oak**, a private kindergarten to eighth grade school located across the street from Jackson Park, to help pay to keep the facility open. The school, whose charges are heavy park users, doesn't pay to use the space. However, families whose children attend the school – many of whom live on the Hill – volunteer at park programs. Someone – property owners, businesses, consumers – is going to have to pay more if cherished public services are going to survive the ongoing economic drought. As Kansas Street resident **Dale Scott** put it, "These are extraordinary times in which all members of the community need to step up and do more, lest the fabric of the community unravel." Many of San Francisco's parks, including Dolores Park and Franklin Square, have separate "friends of" committees that raise funds for their namesakes. Perhaps, as suggested by various PHPA members, it's time

to organize the same "friends" for Potrero's precious open spaces. In the meantime, last month 78 recreation and park workers were handed pink slips, lowering Jackson Park staff to one half-time position.

### New Eats

It appears that the space most recently occupied by **Baraka**, at Connecticut and 18th streets, will be taken over by the owners of the Mission District mainstay **Sunflower Authentic Vietnamese**. No word yet on a specific restaurant concept or opening date...**Jocelyn Bulow**, of **Chez Papa**, **Chez Maman**, and **Chez Papa Resto** fame, will open **Pizza Nostra** in the former **Couleur Café** space – 300 De Haro Street – this month. Resto's executive chef, **David Bazirgan**, created the pizzeria's menu – which will feature Neapolitan-style pizza and focaccia, along with pastas, small plates, and gelato – and **Giovanni Aginolfi**, a veteran Italian pizza chef, will man the stoves. Aginolfi, who's from Naples, arrived roughly two months ago from Europe, where he worked most recently on the French Riviera. The restaurant will be open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and will feature a weekend brunch menu. Delivery may be available by the summer...Two local restaurant owners are collaborating to take over Bernal Heights' **Liberty Café** following the death of its longtime owner, **Cathie Guntli**. **Tony Hua**, Dogpatch's **Hard Knox Café**

owner, who opened a new branch of that restaurant on Clement Street last summer, has reportedly teamed-up with **Stuart Bai**, **Sally's Restaurant Deli's** owner, to purchase **Liberty Café**. Hua was originally brought in to help with Liberty's management while Grunti was ill. There are no immediate plans to change the notable restaurant's recipes or menu, and current employees will likely stay on board.

### Police Presence

Additional foot patrols and undercover drug strings appear to have reduced incidences of violence in the **San Francisco Police Department's Bayview District**, which includes Dogpatch and Potrero Hill. Compared to last year, the number of homicides dropped by almost one-third, from 20 to 14, though nonfatal shootings were down by only two, from 47 to 49...Unfortunately, violence against outhouses remains largely unabated, with two portable toilets set ablaze at Potrero Hill construction sites last month. One portable potty, located at 17th and Kansas streets, went up in flames shortly after midnight on a weekday, while another, installed at 15th and Kansas, was set ablaze at 4:25 p.m. on a Sunday. To date 24 portable toilets have been attacked; most of the fires have occurred on Russian Hill. It seems someone is angry at shit, though taking it out on the only place construction workers can relieve themselves is odd behavior at best.

### Busy Bees

Two colonies of beehives installed last spring at Islais Creek Landing are thriving. Bayview resident **Tai Trang** introduced the bees to the landing, with the hope that they'd help stabilize native bee populations thought to be adversely affected by a virus. The bees appear

to be accomplishing their other objectives: pollinating native plants reintroduced to the landing by Friends of Islais Creek, and discouraging overnight camping.

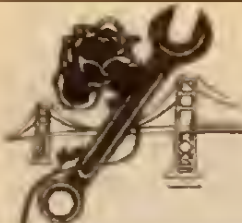
### Death

Mary Francis De Andrade, **Goat Hill Pizza** owner **Philip De Andrade's** mother, died peacefully in Oakland last month. She was 94 years old. The day his mother passed Philip was supposed to have boarded a plane to join U.S. House of Representatives Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** on a trip to the Vatican, but was called back due to Mary's steep decline. The Pope may be head of the Catholic Church, but our moms are always the boss of us. Once in Rome none of the Speaker's entourage were allowed to participate in her meeting with the Pope, greatly diminishing the shine that might otherwise been placed on the trip for Philip. The *View* extends its condolences to the de Andrade family.

### Paper Money

Much appreciated \$10 to \$50 contributions have been drifting into the *View* in response to a call for reader donations to help keep the paper afloat during current hard times (see last month's "Publisher's View"). Please do see if you might be able to part with a small sum, and post it to 2325 Third Street, Suite 344, San Francisco 94107. In the meantime, you can also help out by patronizing our advertisers, who could use the business. And the paper is looking for a polite and patient Hill resident to help with advertising sales; see the classifieds for details.





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# Divisive Traffic Congestion Fee Proposal Prompts Calls for More Transit

By Lisa Tehrani

Potrero Hill residents tend to rely on their cars. With wide streets, ample parking and few transit options, many locals claim that driving is an essential part of their daily lives. That may change, though, if the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) implements a program that would charge drivers to use certain roads during the busiest times of the day as a way to reduce traffic congestion.

Under SFCTA's proposal, 18th Street could serve as the southern boundary for one of the congestion zones. Residents that live even one block south of the zone who drive north to get to the gym, freeway or grocery store during peak traffic hours could be charged to do so. SFCTA is considering assessing a \$3 fee between 6 and 9 a.m. and 3 and 7 p.m. during weekdays. There'd be no charge on weekends. Discounts might be provided for residents living within a zone, and for people with limited incomes or disabilities.

SFCTA presented the proposal at a Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meeting in January, with a hostile response from meeting participants. Zabe Bent, SFCTA principal planner, described two scenarios for the congestion program. Under the first, called the Double Ring, a fee would be assessed to enter or exit the City at specific locations, with another charge to enter or exit the downtown area. The second, titled Northeast Cordon, would include San Francisco's northeast quadrant, with Divisadero Street serving as the western boundary and 18th Street as the southern one. The projected \$35 to \$65 million dollars in fee revenues would be used to improve transit service and City streets, including calibrating traffic signal timing,

resurfacing roads, adding bike and pedestrian pathways, and installing real-time information systems.

The San Francisco Bay Area is the second most congested region in the country. And while Potrero Hill doesn't currently suffer from significant overcrowding, SFCTA considered future population increases when determining possible program boundaries. According to SFCTA, traffic bottlenecks hinder the regional economy, and significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Without action congestion isn't going to improve: the Bay Area's population is expected to steadily increase, prompting more traffic. SFCTA projects that vehicle-related greenhouse gas emissions would decline by 15 percent under the plan.

Meeting participants expressed concerns about the proposal's cost to drivers and impacts on local businesses. According to SFCTA, other cities with similar programs, such as London, have experienced a positive impact on local businesses by increasing the amount of people that can access their services. However, Topher Delaney, a Dogpatch-based landscape architect, stated that program adoption could prompt her to move to a less expensive location outside San Francisco.

Meeting participants expressed outrage that the Northeast Cordon zone would cut the neighborhood in half, consequently charging residents to access essential services, such as the University of California, San Francisco community center and Potrero Shopping Center. Former Boosters president John deCastro, with support from other meeting attendees, asserted that there's inadequate bus service to the Potrero Shopping Center, a mile away from

his house, and that he always drives there as a result. In response, Bent explained that SFCTA is considering ways to keep neighborhoods whole. "Moving the boundary is certainly something we are going to be looking at in the next couple of months," she said, as is providing residents that live within a zone a fee discount.

Another meeting participant estimated that under the proposal he'd have to spend more than \$1,000 a year to take his children to and from school. Bent responded that SFCTA is working with the San Francisco Unified School District to expand school bus programs, and develop ridesharing or carpooling options. "We have looked at providing discounts to school age children," she stated.

Some meeting participants said that they hoped that the City's recent transit analysis, the Transit Effectiveness Project, or TEP, performed by the Municipal Transportation Agency and San Francisco Office of the Controller, would improve transit in Potrero, but have come to believe that it will make things worse. One attendee joked that TEP stands for "Transit Elimination Project." TEP recommendations include discontinuing the 10 Townsend, which is used to go downtown, and the 53 Southern Heights, which accesses Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). The 22 Fillmore, a popular bus line that also links with BART, would be rerouted around Potrero. Meeting attendees

pointed to the difficulty of getting downtown, with the T-Third light rail line providing little help given its inconsistent service.

Tony Kelly, Boosters president, stated that Potrero Hill residents have been asking for additional transit options for more than a decade, especially in light of the significant new housing slated for Showplace Square. "I want to support this idea," said Kelly, "But I also want to take transit when I go to Civic Center and downtown, but I can't because the service is dismal." Dick Millet, Boosters vice president, agreed. "You got to write in a guarantee that the transportation system is there," he said. "It is hard to see beyond what we have today, but part of the goal is to improve what we have today and the options that are available," responded Bent. She noted that congestion fee funds could be used to offer more transit alternatives. "As the study is finalized we can get a better sense of the services that would be in the package," she said.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will ultimately determine whether to adopt the fee program. The Board was originally set to consider the proposal this winter, but, according to Bent, "People want more time to understand the benefits and impacts and talk through the process. We also need to complete the economic impact analysis." The Board is likely to review the concept over the next several months.

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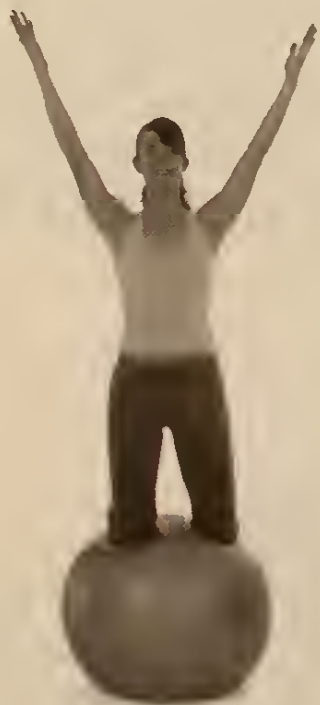
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# Former Hill Hairdresser Styled More than Heads

By Gina Poggi

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, female impersonator David de Alba belted-out tunes as Judy Garland, Liza Minnelli and his own sexy Latin persona, Boy-Chic, at San Francisco's Finocchio Club. Dressed impeccably in dazzling handmade white sequenced pantsuits, de Alba strutted his stuff for audiences that often included celebrities, such as Richard Chamberlain and Robert Wagner.

According to de Alba, the original colonel from Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) came by to see his performance one night. Whether it was Harlan Sanders, who in 1936 the Governor of Kentucky made an honorary colonel, and who died in 1980, or a well-dressed look-alike is open to dispute. However, seeing what looked to be the famous KFC icon in the audience, de Alba announced, "I had [your] famous finger-lickin' chicken for lunch, and didn't get my free strawberry pie." The colonel stood up and said, "Next time you're in my neighborhood I'll see that you get one," de Alba recalled.

Long before de Alba embraced the world of professional impersonation, his affinity for hair and make up drew him to become a hairdresser in Chicago in 1965. Five years later he moved to San Francisco, and opened a salon at 18th and Kansas streets. He named it *Heri the Hairstylist*, Heriberto being his given name. De Alba's



De Alba performing at the Finocchio Club (Top). De Alba and his mother in front of his Potrero Hill hair salon (Right).



reputation for lustrous shampoo-sets, bouffants and styled wigs attracted local celebrities and queens. For a time he wrote a beauty advice column for the *View*. *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Herb Caen and Tony Curtis came to the salon to shoot a pilot for the television series *Spies*.

De Alba's fame as a stylist to the stars caught the attention of Eve Finocchio, wife of Finocchio Club owner Joe Finocchio. "One thing led to another and [Eve] invited me to start working in her world famous nightclub...the rest is history," said de Alba. The first thing Eve Finocchio said to de Alba was, "Let me see your

legs." Approving his gams, she then had him audition. What followed was an initiation of sorts during his first-ever performance.

"The first time [I performed] I was nervous because the emcee, Al St. Claire, then trying to be funny or whatever, handed me the mike turned off and I sang without the help of the mike," recounted de Alba.

De Alba seamlessly replicated famous female performers' hair and make up, sang, and even moved, like them. Unlike many singer-impersonists, de Alba never lip-synched. "The trick was that at Finocchio's we performed always

live. No pantomiming to records was allowed then, and as in my particular case I sounded really like a woman and not a male singing in drag," said de Alba.

De Alba's performances were more often than not tributes to his favorite Broadway superstar, Judy Garland. "Judy was always the number one female singer that I just adored. I got to see her in person three times and the last time I got to meet and talk to her. I told her I did an impersonation act of her," said de Alba. Judy replied, "Do you like me that much!"

*Continued on Page 21*

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# Farley's Turns Twenty: What a Long, Strange Trip it's Been

By Nanette Collins

Long before social networking became the popular way to build community, Roger Hillyard was doing just that at his Potrero Hill café, Farley's. The beloved neighborhood hang-out for coffee, tea and magazines, whose motto is "Community in a Cup," will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17.

With a shock of white hair, expressive blue eyes and a wide face that crinkles when he smiles, Hillyard is a familiar figure on the Hill. Born in Seattle, Hillyard lived in Washington until he was eight, when his family moved to the East Bay. At 18, Hillyard attended San Francisco State University (SFSU) for two years before venturing to Europe. When he returned a year later, he finished college and started graduate school, focusing on eastern studies and photography. Within three months he was hired by impresario Bill Graham to work with the San Francisco Mime Troupe, which led to producing light shows at the Fillmore and Avalon Theaters.

Ever restless, Hillyard and his then wife Susan moved to New Mexico: "as good hippies, we lived a rustic life with no electricity or running water," he said. In 1968 Hillyard and Susan lived in Boston for three years, studying macrobiotic food with Michio and Aveline Kushi at the Kushi Institute.

The next move took the family, now consisting of daughter Cyrena, age three, and son Chris, six months old,



Farley's 19th anniversary.

to Los Angeles, where they intended to continue on to Japan. Instead, the family toured organic farms and natural food stores throughout Southern California in a converted bus. This six-month adventure ended when they settled in Texas, where, in 1971, Hillyard worked for Arrowhead Mills, a large natural foods company, handling contracts, packaging and promotion. Susan Hillyard co-authored a natural foods cookbook, *The Deaf Smith Country Cookbook — Natural Foods for Natural Kitchens*.

Not one to tarry anywhere too long, the Hillyard family soon moved to Santa Cruz, whose charms slowed his wanderlust, though he and his wife separated in 1978 and divorced

a few years later. Hillyard stayed in the oceanside village for 13 years, working in the natural foods business. He launched a food brokerage and promotions company, and ultimately headed to Mill Valley, where he helped an old friend build and run a restaurant.

In 1988, Hillyard returned to San Francisco. He was living at Seventh and Fulton streets when inspiration struck in the form of a broken French Press coffee pot. His inability to find a replacement prompted him to believe that area could use a coffee beans and accessories store. For a year he searched San Francisco and the East Bay for appropriate space. He found one on Clement Street, but decided that it wasn't right for his needs.

Then a friend told him about five empty storefronts on 18th Street. He was familiar with the Hill from collecting scrap metal in the neighborhood for his and SFSU's art projects. He toured one of the storefronts, an old carriage house that then housed and was owned by the Prisoner's Rights Union, which wanted to move to Sacramento. Thinking the area promising, in late-1988 Hillyard leased the bottom floor for his coffee beans and accessories business, and the third floor for his living space. Laughingly, he recalled that he had no plans and not one permit. He and a craftsman friend "just said, 'Let's do this.'" They came up with some drawings that look surprisingly similar to the way Farley's looks today.

At first Hillyard's was adamant that Farley's wouldn't become a café. "I didn't want people hanging out and having to deal with them." But the space quickly evolved, with magazine

racks and tables and chairs. "It was rapidly becoming what I didn't want.

"It took on a life of its own," Hillyard remembered. Hillyard's willingness to allow Farley's to grow organically has helped influence the place, its customers, and, ultimately, the neighborhood. "This place worked," he said. But not without a crisis before it opened.

Early one November morning, Hillyard woke up coughing. He went down the back steps and saw smoke. In the days before cell phones, he was forced to run back up the stairs to call the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD). He and the bartender from Blooms Saloon across the street attempted to put out the fire themselves, but it was too intense. SFFD arrived, extinguished the fire, and determined that it was caused by spontaneous combustion from careless handling of rags. Fortunately, the fire didn't do any structural damage. But it set back the café's opening by a few months. Undeterred, Hillyard secured the proper permits and prepared the place for business.

Farley's had a soft opening on Valentine's Day, with its official grand opening on St. Patrick's Day. The name Farley's — the logo for which features a silhouetted dapper gentleman with hat and cane — originated in Rockford, Illinois in 1915 with Jack and Hazel Farley — Hazel's Kitchen next door to Farley's is named for Hillyard's grandmother — and their son Norman, Roger's father. When Norman was three years old, Jack disappeared, and was never heard from again. Hazel Farley remarried a man name Hillyard, who adopted Norman, but it's Jack and his mysterious disappearance that is Farley's namesake.

According to Hillyard, over the years the neighborhood has evolved, not altogether in ways that benefit local merchants. "In the past, we had more people with independent businesses. That's changed as Potrero Hill becomes more attractive. Property values have displaced many of the people who worked and lived in nearby studios. These people were around and active throughout the day. You can see that things have changed by looking at the number of parking spaces available. The business has tapered off, and there's a new breed of resident who lives here and goes off to work. They're not as active in the neighborhood. As merchants we need to rally our new

*Continued on Page 19*

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# Potrero Parents Work to Save Daniel Webster

By Halley Cornell

Three years ago, Daniel Webster Elementary School was slated for closure due to chronic under-enrollment. Operating at just half capacity, the kindergarten to fifth grade school was the subject of a San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education cost-cutting proposal that would have merged it with Starr King Elementary. But a group of Hill residents, many of them new parents, banded together to save the school. With a petition containing more than 600 signatures, and a strategy to increase enrollment in hand, the group convinced the Board to keep Webster open. On the laurels of that success, the Potrero Residents Education Fund (PREFund) was born. The group has since worked to provide funds for and attract students to the school they hope their children will attend.

"Despite hundreds of children under age five in Potrero Hill, our neighborhood was faced with the very real possibility that no elementary school on the Hill would be able to serve its needs," said Laura Mitic, one of the eight parents of preschool-aged children that comprise the all-volunteer PREFund group. The problem is endemic in San Francisco. Many upper-income parents send their children to private schools, both because of a perception of better facilities and educational experiences, and to avoid the school placement lottery system that may not grant them their school of choice. As a result, many public schools are under-enrolled and deprived of the resources these parents can contribute.

Daniel Webster serves primarily low-income, non-European-American families. Seventy-five percent of its students qualify for federally-subsidized free lunches. According to Mitic, PREFund members are predominately middle-income, and their diversity lies in their talent. They are parents committed to helping an academically flailing school, she said.

As part of its strategy to increase demand for Webster, in 2008 PREFund helped start Potrero Kids at Daniel Webster (PKDW), and launched a Spanish immersion kindergarten program. The bilingual preschool serves 36 children three- to five year-olds. One-quarter are on scholarship. PREFund originally contracted with Mission Neighborhood Centers (MNC) to operate the school, but this January MNC and PREFund agreed to part ways. By the summer PREFund will take over management of the preschool, and MNC will focus on their existing Head-Start programs and a new Bayview-based infant/toddler/preschool program.

"They [MNC] have 40 years of experience," said PREFund member Jennifer Betti. "They're our safety net and don't want to leave us too soon, so they made a business decision to delay the opening of their other facility. When they leave, we'll have financial responsibility." According to Betti, PREFund has recently incorporated. She expects no major changes at the preschool as a result of the administration change. However, teachers will have the option of staying with PKDW or moving on when the transition takes place. PREFund has said it will do it's best to retain current staff so that the transition is as unnoticeable as possible for the kids, said

PKDW parent and Webster volunteer Sara O'Neill. "There's weirdness that's inherent in any transition," O'Neill said. "But the preschool will be in very capable hands, and I don't have any concerns about PREFund transitioning away from MNC for any reason. I'm glad they're there."

So is Principal Moraima Machado, who says PREFund has not only been open to discovering the school's real needs, but has hung in there even after the initial shine of success wore off. The group, she said, has raised funds to hire tutors and mentors. Volunteers garden, paint, and replenish supplies. The group also helped form Webster's first parent-teacher association, and has supported a number of academic enrichment programs. "We have all of these academic needs and student needs on top of us. Some of the things that they've done take a secondary place in our schedules," said Machado, who noted that a few Webster staff were initially skeptical that PREFund's efforts would last long, let alone be helpful. "But you can see their commitment. Just by walking by the school you can see the beautiful colors and the garden; after school you can see the three teachers provided for tutoring services. They have made our environment more supportive to learning."

Betti said PREFund's stick-to-itiveness has been important to its success. "We definitely had a lot of proving to do. There had been some other groups that set out to do things and didn't stick around, and at first we could barely get the staff to say what they needed because they just weren't used to getting help." With PREFund's support, the school now has a full-time social worker and on-campus mentors, which has contributed to a steep drop in suspensions and playground incidents. The staff has become more trustful. "We proved we didn't just come in there to throw some bake sales," Betti said.

According to Machado, kindergarten enrollment rose this year. The school now has three kindergarten classes – up from two – with between 17 and 18 students each. However, the school still operates at roughly half capacity. PREFund hopes that steadily increasing interest in public schools, along with the attraction of Spanish immersion, will ultimately fill all of the school's seats. "There are four or five families, including ours, who are all in for attending Daniel Webster," said O'Neill, who said she's heard of 20 or more other Hill families whose interest has been piqued by PREFund's efforts. According to Daphne Magnawa, a PKDW parent and volunteer, there's a waiting list for the preschool, with many of those parents planning to apply for Spanish immersion kindergarten slots. "The momentum is definitely there," Magnawa said of Webster's growth.

PREFund's next big challenge will be drawing parents and students to Webster's general education track. That portion of the school's growth will take time, O'Neill said. According to Mitic, support from the neighborhood is key to Webster's continued success. "The time is now to improve this school or risk children enrolling in private schools or schools outside the City," she said. "Both of those outcomes rob the Potrero Hill community. PREFund epitomizes what the Potrero Hill community can do when it comes together."

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# Kids on the Block

By Stacy Bartlett

On January 27th Alaina and Kress Fischer of Rhode Island Street welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Cashin Rourke Passenger Fischer.



Happy belated third birthday to Miss Maebh, the girl who knows the best way to avoid walking up the hill! - From her friends at McKinley Square.



Happy second birthday to Henry Bryce Bartlett. Huggies and Lovies from Mama, Daddy, Annabel and even Black Kitty.



Wishing Jordan a very happy fifth birthday, March 22nd, with much love from Mom and Dad



Isla turns two on March 5th. She has big things in her future, like a big girl bed and potty training. Mom and dad are so proud of the girl she's becoming!



Jade Greer celebrated her ninth birthday on February 7. Jade is San Francisco's youngest Neighborhood Emergency Response Training (NERT) member, having been certified two summers ago at the Bayview District Police Station. Jade recently played the part of a disaster victim for Potrero Hill NERT graduates. Happy birthday, Jade!



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# Principal for a Day Brings Volunteers and Businesses Back to School to Foster Community and Academic Excellence

By Lori Higa

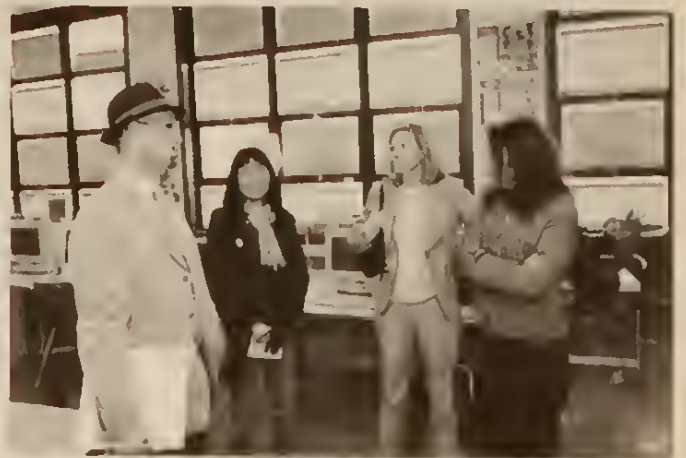
You might think that being principal for a day in one of San Francisco's public schools would be a little like being queen for a day. Unfortunately, you'd be wrong. But the experience for this *View* reporter and dozens of others who shadowed some of the City's public school principals was eye-opening and inspiring.

Buena Vista Elementary, Daniel Webster Elementary, Downtown High School, International Studies Academy and Starr King Elementary, among other schools, participated in the one day event. Captains of industry who volunteered their time included venture capitalist Warren Hellman, Deloitte's Mark Edmunds, Ken McNeely of AT&T, Merrill Lynch's Brian Riley and Jennifer Povlitz, and Larry Baer, the San Francisco Giants' Chief Operating Officer. San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) superintendent Carlos Garcia and City Attorney Dennis Herrera addressed the principals for a day at a post-event luncheon at AT&T Park.

Principal for a day was hosted by



Principal Chris Rosenberg, Starr King Elementary School, monitors class during Principal for a Day. Photograph by Drew Altizer Photography.



Rosenberg, with Lori Higa, View reporter; Le-Ann Peling, Comcast, and Gretchen Koch, Dreyer's Ice Cream. Photograph by Drew Altizer Photography.

nonprofit SF School Volunteers (SFSV), and has been sponsored for the past several years by Merrill Lynch. SFSV places more than 2,100 volunteers in San Francisco public schools each year, with the support of 30 business-school partnerships. Principal for a day helps businesspeople learn the nuts and bolts of being head of a school. Principals have to juggle myriad responsibilities, from strategic planning to reviewing report cards, while staying focused on the bottom line: student achievement.

At Starr King Elementary, principal Chris Rosenberg, looking dapper in brown fedora, beige jacket and tie, took three principals for a day on his regular rounds. Le-Ann Peling, of Comcast, Gretchen Koch, of Dreyers Ice Cream and the *View* toured general education, Mandarin immersion and Spanish bilingual classes, and visited students diagnosed with autism or learning disabilities, who were busily making valentines. The visitors watched kids spill-out of the school's main building onto the playground and jump energetically into playing tether ball and foursquare during the first

15-minute recess of the day.

Starr King is one of San Francisco's most diverse schools, with 300 students from five main ethnic groups, none of which reflect more than one-third or less than one-tenth of the student population. According to Rosenberg, Starr King's student population used to exceed 400, mostly African-American and Latino children from the neighboring housing complex and Mission District. School enrollment plunged to 150 as the dotcom boom and associated increases in living costs pushed families out of the City. But the institution of immersion classes has attracted more Asian-American and European-American students to the school, and its population is growing and diversifying. According to Rosenberg, the school has seen "seven straight years of improved test scores" that put Starr King in the district's top percentile.

If Starr King is any indication, SFUSD's principals, teachers, and staff put in a hard days work. Rosenberg's dynamism, moxie, smarts and humor were apparent as he strolled through the school's hallways, which are decorated with brightly colored tiles made by students. He stopped often to meet, greet and ask about each student's well-being, seeming to know the names of every child. According to Rosenberg, who has a brother with Downs Syndrome, the district sends many special needs children to Starr King because of its strong programs. "We often receive students who have legal issues surrounding the services they are to receive because their cases will be resolved more quickly here."

Starr King was built in 1955 and its age shows. Rosenberg credits the PTA's and nearby community's dedication and volunteerism with implementing an ambitious greening campaign, including new landscaping and an architectural re-design that will spruce up the school.

After the morning school tours, participants gathered at AT&T Park, where they were treated to lunch and entertained by the Aptos Middle School's jazz band. Hydra Mendoza, Mayor Gavin Newsom's education liaison, and a school board member, unveiled a new initiative calling for one hundred CEOs for one hundred schools, in which participating businesses will be presented with a wish list developed by principals and asked to provide the resources needed to make the wishes come true.

During lunch, principals and business executives discussed how they could partner to improve the quality of education and better prepare society's future workforce. Such collaborations have already helped establish a variety of programs, including mentoring, workplace readiness and leadership development, as well as contributed financial and technical support. "Even with a downturn in our economy, it speaks to the power of our community to see so many businesses participating in principal for a day and giving back to our schools," said Lisa Spinali, SFSV executive director. "I'm excited by the potential these businesses will help bring to fruition in our schools by engaging with them."

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## Organic Energy

Continued from Page 2

friendly cities.

Lessons from the food and land use movements should be applied to our electricity system. Rather than continuing to replicate our spoke and wheels model – large capital-intensive generating clusters at the end of massive land-gobbling transmission lines – we should create structures that allow for a more diverse, localized, set of energy resources. This system would be similar to a natural ecosystem, which can accommodate a multitude of creatures that work, often unintentionally, in ways that benefit the whole.

For example, electricity could be generated by a myriad of neighborhood-based facilities, including solar and wind. Small biomass-fueled heat and power units could be fed with locally-produced waste, including food scraps and dog dung, thereby closing a resource-intensive garbage stream that has to be trucked many miles to be disposed of. State-of-the-art storage technologies – including in the form of ice that's produced during the night for use in cooling during the day – and new-fangled electric car batteries, could be used to smooth supply disruptions that occur when the wind fails, or the sun doesn't shine. Increased adoption of conservation, energy efficiency, and voluntary curtailments would

complement a diminishing role for a centralized system.

This approach, call it "organic energy," would require fewer expensive transmission lines marring the landscape, and depend on more job-intensive "weeding" of energy hogging devices and installation of a more neighborly energy ecosystem. Technological capital, in the form of large power plants and massive wires, would be replaced by human-scale devices and intellectual capital: thoughtful, community-oriented designers, installers, and educators. Railing about "those dumb bureaucrats" located far-away would be replaced by walking across the street to check on the local digester.

Ironically for a constantly

changing place, Americans don't like change. Many of us prefer not knowing where our electricity comes from, and certainly don't want to have to do anything more than flip a switch to access it. This ignorance and ease comes at a cost, though. Our existing system consolidates power into utility monopolies and capital-dependent corporations who aren't our neighbors and don't necessarily act in our best interests. What's more, our dependence on a few thick straws to suck power generated by a handful of feed stocks from one place to another prompts numerous risks, including that the straw will

Continued on Page 17

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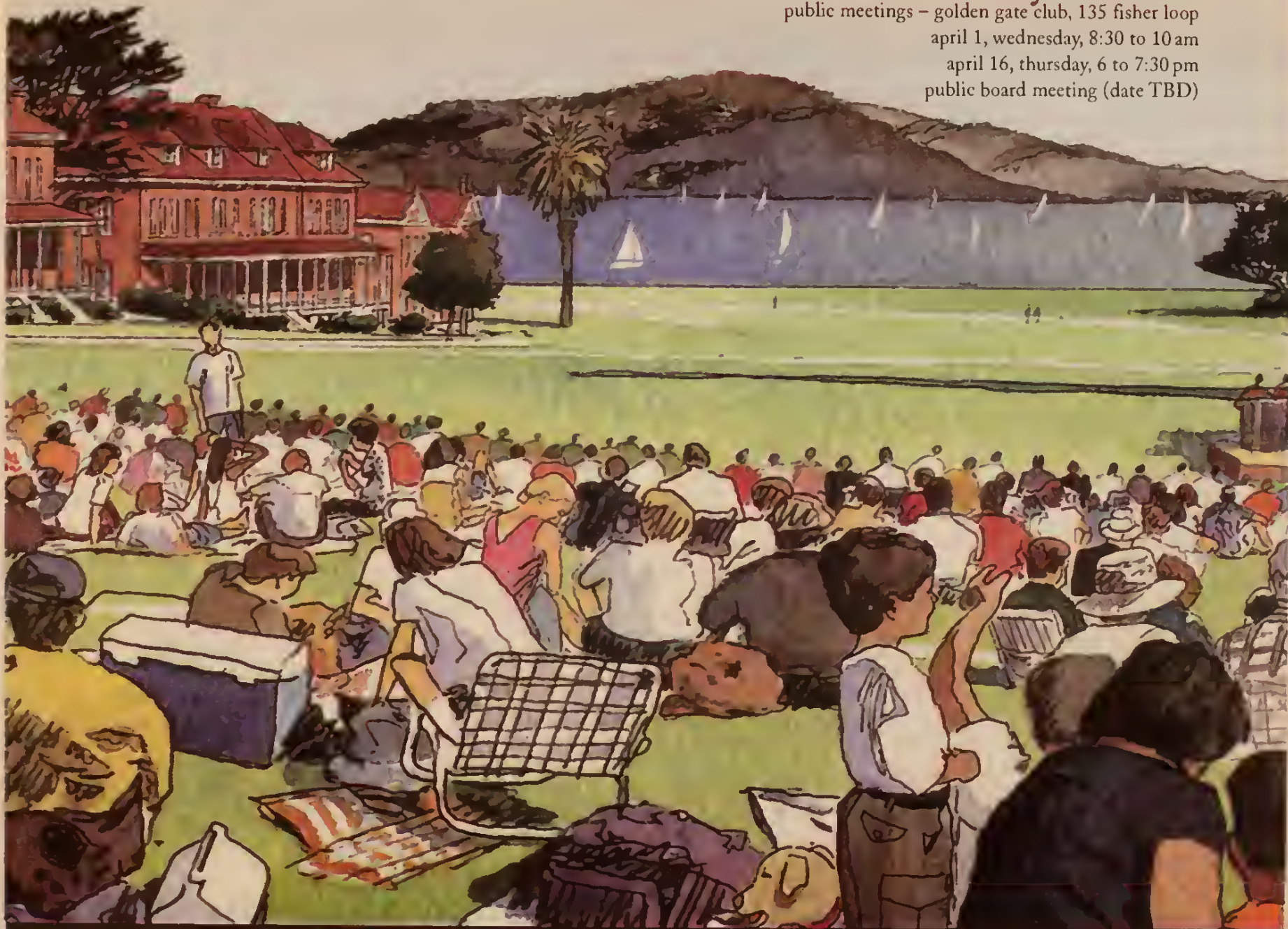
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# Potrero Hill's Secret Gardens Revealed

by Michele Hangee-Bauer

Did you know that Potrero Hill has an active garden club? For many years, Hill residents have gathered each month to share ideas about gardening. Club members are interested in all things that grow: flowers and shrubs, vegetables, orchids, succulents and bonsai. In addition to sharing plants and cuttings, bulbs, and seeds, the group, which ranges from 10 to 20 people, gets together for regular potlucks, often featuring dishes prepared with local, backyard ingredients.

I joined the club about five years ago, prompted in part by a desire to meet more people from my community. My husband and I showed up at a

meeting/potluck, and realized right away that this was a group for us. The meetings are informal. Sometimes there's a topic or a presentation; other times we just have a potluck and talk about gardening. Many club members have become good friends whom one another look forward to seeing each month.

One of the club's most enjoyable aspects is seeing so many wonderful homes and gardens in the neighborhood. San Francisco is unique in that our yards are usually private; you can't tell from the street that a home has a beautiful garden. Our members' gardens vary from cozy shaded patios, terraced gardens

with raised vegetable beds, terraced gardens with an abundance of flowers and pathways, a patio with killer views, and our own gardens with my succulent collection and a rickety (but charming) greenhouse full of orchids.

If I've piqued your interest, why don't you come to our next potluck? We'd love to share our garden club with you! We normally meet on the last Sunday of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., though sometimes the date or time varies a little. To find out about the next meeting contact Audrey Cole, 648.1926.



A lush pathway in a Potrero Hill garden. Photo by M. Joseph Schaller Ph.D.



Chasmanthe blooms up to three times a year in Potrero Hill gardens and fields. Photo by M. Joseph Schaller



Patio garden on Vermont Street. (top and right) Photos by Judi Daddio



This permeable sidewalk landscaping is currently being developed in front of 610 Wisconsin Street.

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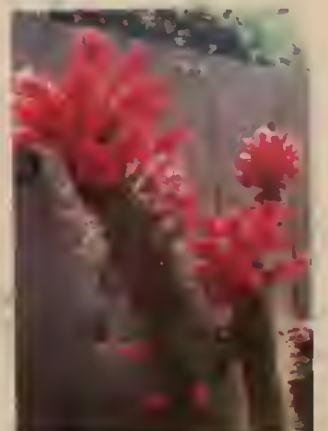
During the winter rain settles into the ground instead of flowing into storm sewers. Likewise, the plants reduce global climate change by breathing in carbon dioxide, and absorbing, rather than reflecting, heat. And sidewalk gardens beautify the City. To learn about about permeable landscaping and the associated permit process check-out [www.PlantSF.org](http://www.PlantSF.org).



Wisconsin Street garden.



A Potrero Hill greenhouse full of orchids.



Succulents and cacti thrive in Potrero Hill gardens.



Canary Island geraniums take two years to bloom, but when they do, it's worth the wait. Thousands of long-lasting blooms emerge in a three-foot-wide ball on each plant. Photo by M. Joseph Schaller Ph.D.



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# Potrero Hill Yoga Studio Connects with the Neighborhood

By Nanette Collins

First time students to Pretzel's Yoga and Pilates might be intimidated by the Carolina Street studio's name, which conjures images of a yoga master contorting themselves into the shape of a pretzel. However, owner Pretzel France and teachers Sheila Berotti, Tristan Bettencourt and Bernadette Otterbein quickly put newcomers at ease.

According to Kamalesh Rao, who has been studying yoga with France for more than two years, "I enjoy the instruction, atmosphere and fellow practitioners who attend the classes. One can expect a total workout of the body and enjoy the benefits from it. Five stars to Pretzel's Yoga."

Pretzel's given name is Beayah France. She adopted "Pretzel" as her professional moniker in 1996, after picking it up as a nickname due to her flexibility. The warmth and generosity of France's teaching style permeates her studio, which has been hosting students for 13 years. She and her teachers know everyone by name, and there's often a small display of student-made yoga gear for sale. Business cards, photographs, flyers and books by her students hold a place of prominence at the studio's entrance.

France, who's originally from Hungary, grew up in Texas. With a background in gymnastics and dance, California was the perfect place for a young France to land. By her mid-20s she knew she didn't want to dance professionally, but giving up on the dream was a tough decision. "I was lost and needed to find something," she said recently over coffee at Chat's Roasting Company. She found what she was looking for at a yoga class held at a long-closed gym on Post Street, which was located across the street from where she was living. "I

was searching and found myself with yoga. I found yoga intriguing, and because I was flexible I loved it."

France began studying at a Bikram yoga studio in the Marina District, ultimately managing and teaching at a North Beach Bikram yoga studio. In the early-1990s, France became fascinated with Cirque du Soleil, and began practicing to audition for the company. She traveled to France, where she perfected a contortionist routine that she performed at cafés. The money was great, but, she admitted, "I knew that I couldn't rely on that kind of thing, and hit a wall."

Wernher Krutein of Potrero Hill-based Photovault encouraged her to come back to San Francisco. In 1996 he convinced her to teach yoga in the conference room of his photography studio at 17th and Mississippi streets. Within four months, 10 people were taking her classes. She moved her fledgling yoga business to 18th Street, between Arkansas and Carolina streets, where 20 people at a time could take her classes. Two years later, she moved again, this time to Carolina Street, where Pretzel's Yoga and Pilates has been a fixture for almost a decade and a half.

Pretzel's long-time friend and student Sophie Taggart calls Pretzel "a unique and valuable teacher. I have seen her studio grow and develop as she has. From a small front room in a studio where she started classes in San Francisco, Pretzel has expanded into her current yoga palace with warm soft lighting and calm music. From the moment you walk in the front door of Pretzel's Yoga and Pilates school, the awareness that you are now in sacred territory will inspire students to take the opportunity to stretch their bodies, open their hearts and still their minds."

Word of mouth and flyers blanketing the Hill have been the

mainstay of Pretzel's marketing strategy. She laughingly recounts her business' early days, when she and a retired friend climbed stairs and hills to deliver flyers advertising the studio, a practice that others from the studio continue to this day. Pretzel attributes her success to consistency, dedication, a passionate concern for her students, and a few stints working for law firms in the financial district. "Yoga comes first, than business," she remarked, noting that when she steps into her studio all her attention is on her students and their needs. "It's no longer about me."


While many of Pretzel's students have been with her since she opened the studio, she continues to attract new students from the community and throughout the Bay Area. "She connects with each and every one of her students," said Potrero Hill resident and student Rosalie Lack. "Her classes are a perfect combination of physically challenging and spiritually rewarding. I've been going to her studio for almost five years and I can honestly say that it has changed my life. I'm in the best shape I've ever been in both physically and mentally."

Another student, Natasha, agrees. "Pretzel is such a humorous, compassionate, passionate individual and it really transcends in her yoga practice and her studio. She has such an amazing following of individuals who have followed her from her previous location to this. Coming

from a sports and competitive sports background, I find each class slightly different; sometimes humorous, sometimes we're concentrating intensely, but it's always challenging and always progressive."

"Stretch out in 2009," France advised.

*Pretzel's Yoga & Pilates is located at 485A Carolina Street. For more details, visit: [www.pretzelsyoga.com](http://www.pretzelsyoga.com) or call 626.9642.*

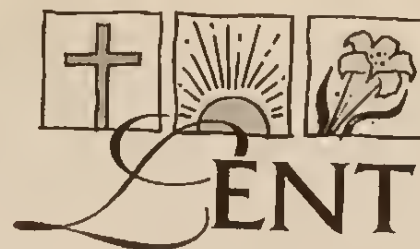


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## Parking Permits

Continued from Front Page

to receive up to three more if they have a commercial vehicle. The owner of Dogpatch Studios – a print, film and event space at 991 Tennessee – complained that “the concept of me having to go out every four hours to check on parking is an inconvenience. I’m running a multi-million dollar press...On the Tennessee block from 20th to 22nd is mostly commercial. It works. Not perfectly, but it works.”

Some residents were sympathetic to businesses’ concerns, noting that businesses and residents have worked well together in the past. But with so many new enterprises coming into the neighborhood – including the University of California, San Francisco – and more than 100 new housing units, many long-time residents feel like the area has become a parking lot. “Four hours is great,” half-joked one participant, “Come on, you need to take a break.”

Trish Large of Shooting Stars Productions responded that the time limit would be “truly damaging to Dogpatch businesses, and would disrupt productivity.” Large is responsible for five other vehicles besides her own, and has never had to park more the two blocks away from her office. “If you take away our street parking we’ll have no other option. Residents have driveways and garages.” At this statement a resident shouted-out “absolutely not!” while tending to a crying baby.

Another local business owner declared that the time limit would

be “harmful to our businesses. We are dependent on vehicles to operate. Employees can’t use public transit all the time and many rely on office vehicles...It feels like this measure will drive away small businesses.” He also claimed that local restaurants, many of which have only recently opened, depend on their employees for lunch hour traffic. Other local businesses asserted that more than one-third of buildings on Tennessee Street are dedicated to commercial uses, with upwards of 300 employees affected by a four hour limit.

There was also high emotion over the stub of Minnesota past 22nd Street being omitted from the permit zone. One resident of that block complained that a nearby business occupies at least “four or five available spots,” leaving the five households on the block struggling to find parking.

After everyone had their say, Newlin and Forks took several minutes to deliberate. “We’re going to come up with a compromise that surely won’t make anyone happy. We’re going to continue to study the two areas on Tennessee Street, and approve everything else. Also, to continue with the Minnesota stub you will need to complete a petition for posting signs.” According to Forks the permit proposal now goes to the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) for final approval.

As the View went to press a newly formed group, the Dogpatch Business Association, was lobbying District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell to limit the permit plan to between 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It’s unclear when MTA will consider the plan during its March meetings.

## Potrero Hill Home and House Boat Tour a Success



Five Mission Creek house boats were a tour highlight. Photo by Peter Linenthal

By Peter Linenthal

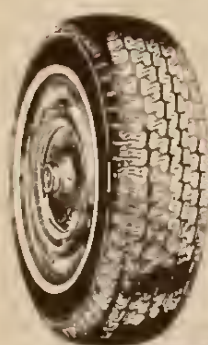
Two months ago the Potrero Hill Library Campaign held the first ever Potrero Hill Home and House Boat Tour. Two hundred tickets were sold, and, with underwriting by Zephyr Real Estate and Melinda Lee and Linda Clark of Coldwell Banker Real Estate, more than \$5,000 was raised. The funds will be dedicated to purchasing furniture and fixtures for the 20th Street Potrero Library Branch remodel, which is scheduled to be completed early next year.

Participants – who included home remodelers, history buffs, and the just plain curious – had a great time,

including those who generously opened their doors to the tour. According to home owner Tom Steele, “It was a great way to meet neighbors, everyone was very cordial. We made some new friends. And people don’t have to have a perfect show house to be part of it.” House boat owner Kevin O’Connell agreed. “Everyone who opened their boats was thrilled and pleased. There were zero problems. I heard, ‘Let’s do this again!’ several times.”

Upcoming library fundraisers include a Children’s Potrero Kid’s Day on April 26; a book launch party for *Then & Now, Potrero Hill* scheduled for May; and a Potrero Hill garden tour this summer.

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## a r t s

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## March 1 - 8

**Theater: A Girl's War - An Armenian-Azeri Love Story**

Golden Thread Productions presents the West Coast premiere of Joyce Van Dyke's award-winning play, *A Girl's War*, at the Thick House. This love story of opposite sides was first produced at Boston Playwrights' Theatre in 2001, and has won numerous awards. Set in the Caucasus Mountains in the midst of a civil war between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, *A Girl's War* is a tale of the competing desires of love and vengeance fueled by jealousy, propelling the characters toward an explosive climax with tragic consequences. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 5 p.m. Tickets: General \$25; Students, Seniors, TBA members \$15; Previews and Thursdays are Pay-What-You-Can. Thick House, 1695 18th Street (between Carolina & Arkansas). For more information: 401.8081 or [www.thickhouse.org](http://www.thickhouse.org).

## March 1 - April 17

**Art: Wings for Words**

San Francisco Center for the Book presents "Wings for Words: New Bookworks from Korea and Japan," curated by Alisa Golden. The collection is an exhibition of book works from fourteen professional artists working in South Korea and Japan. These contemporary works embrace a variety of techniques, from altered books to woodblock printing. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. San Francisco Center for the Book, 300 De Haro Street, at 16th Street. For more information: [www.sfcbook.org/html/wingspress](http://www.sfcbook.org/html/wingspress) or call Colleen Stockmann at 565.0545 extension. 10.

## March 6

**Poetry: Kay Ryan**

National Poet Laureate and California native Kay Ryan will read with Oakland-based poet and martial arts instructor D.R. Goodman. Ryan, in collaboration with Tucker Nichols, created the 2008 Small Plates edition *How Birds Sing*. The book opens with Ryan's text and unfolds with whimsical drawings by Nichols. The event is sponsored by Poetry and Pizza, and benefits Center programs. 7 p.m., \$5. San Francisco Center for the Book, 300 De Haro Street, at 16th Street. For more information: [www.sfcbook.org](http://www.sfcbook.org).

## March 6 &amp; 8

**Opera: The Marriage of Figaro**

Goat Hall Productions, a San Francisco-based nonprofit opera company performing as San Francisco Cabaret Opera, presents *The Marriage of Figaro*. Enjoy the antics of the cabaret while pink Champagne and sweet desserts are served at your table by costumed cast! Now in its 12th year, San Francisco Cabaret Opera is dedicated

to performing new music theater, contemporary and classic works in intimate venues with an exciting cabaret style. Friday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$15 general; \$10 seniors/students/TBA members \$25/per person Cabaret Table (free champagne). The Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street (between 20th and 21st streets). For more information: 289-6877 or [www.goathall.org](http://www.goathall.org).

## March 17

**Community: Farley's 20th Anniversary!**

On St. Patrick's Day Farley's celebrates its 20th Anniversary! The art work on the walls will feature Farley's memorabilia and events from the last two decades. The window boxes will display photographs of Farley's cups as they have traveled around the world with local photographer and longtime patron, Ralph. Activities for the day start at 9 a.m., with Lynn Miller playing the bagpipes, followed by live Irish music until noon. The celebration continues at 8 p.m. with a dance/concert by local favorites, the "Soul Delights", who'll be playing 60's soul, rhythm and blues tunes, and an Irish tune or two. Farley's, 1315 18th Street (between Texas and Missouri). For more information: [www.farleyscoffee.com](http://www.farleyscoffee.com) or 648.1545.

## March 19 - 22 &amp; 26 - 29

**Theater: The Symmetry Project - Study #14 (re)Presentation**

After sold-out performances of Symmetry Study #7 last year, Gravity returns with *\*Symmetry Study #14, (re)Presentation*, a full-evening version of the sparse, otherworldly duet between choreographer/performers Maria Francesca Scaroni and Jess Curtis. *Symmetry Study #14* is a journey through perception. Two naked bodies interact through a highly structured improvisational score, constricted in a specific physical habit; that of moving symmetrically, relative to themselves or to each other. Limbs entangle and intertwine creating an inter-corporeal kaleidoscope of flesh. Exploring and manipulating our perception, they reveal the body's awkwardness, its monstrosity, and its potential failure and finiteness. 8 p.m. Tickets: Thursday and Sunday, \$18; Friday and Saturday, \$20. CounterPULSE, 1310 Mission Street, at 9th. For more information: [www.jesscurtisgravity.org](http://www.jesscurtisgravity.org) or [www.counterpulse.org](http://www.counterpulse.org) or call 626.2060.

## March 21

**Community: Alvarado's Not-So-Silent Auction**

Join Alvarado Elementary School supporters for their biggest fundraiser of the year, the Not-So-Silent Auction. Come bid on flights of wine, art work and children's summer camps, and partake in delicious food and drink provided by Alvarado parents. All proceeds directly support the Parent-

Teachers' Association's fabulous programs and enrichment activities. 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets: \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Janet Pomeroy Center, 207 Skyline Blvd (at Armory Rd. before the Great Highway). For more information: [www.alvaradoschool.net/auton2009.html](http://www.alvaradoschool.net/auton2009.html) or 695.5695.

## March 21

**Kids: Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature**

Can you be both scientific and religious? Stop by the Naturalist Center at the California Academy of Sciences for their new teen book discussion group, "Teens Talk Books." The group will discuss works of fiction and non-fiction that have scientific and/or environmental themes. This month join the group for a discussion of *Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature* by Robin Brande, a book that looks at a high schooler's experience within the evolution versus intelligent design debate. 11 a.m. Free with museum admission. RSVP to the Naturalist Center. For more information: 379.5494 or [www.calacademy.org/academy/exhibits/naturalist\\_center](http://www.calacademy.org/academy/exhibits/naturalist_center).

## Late March (date TBD)

**Community: Urban Permaculture Design Course**

Urban centers like San Francisco need innovative solutions to the

persistent problems of the built environment. Permaculture SF invites you to join them for a new and exciting permaculture design course, with a specific focus on the urban setting. The course will be taught at the 18th and Rhode Island garden. Potrero Hill residents will receive a \$100 discount on tuition. Total course time is 100 hours. An official start date hasn't yet been determined, but register soon to secure a spot! Wednesdays at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street, from 6 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays at the garden from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: \$600; \$500 for Potrero residents (financial assistance available). For more information call David Cody 260-6570 or go to [www.18thandrhodeisland.org](http://www.18thandrhodeisland.org).

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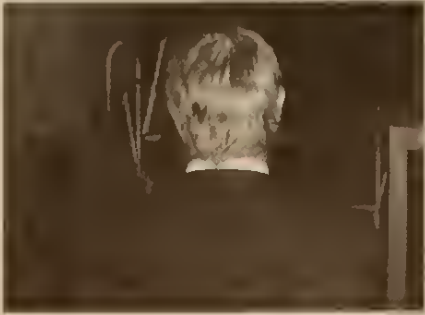
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## KQED Photographer Snaps Talking Heads

Howard Gelman has been recording celebrities, opinion-makers, and talking heads at KQED Radio for more than two decades. Roughly a decade ago Gelman, an ardent photographer, started snapping photos of radio guests from his perspective, capturing the back of their heads. Below are a few of the many photographs Gelman has taken over the years. Gelman's is currently working on another photography project: Profiles Encouraged. All photos © H. Gelman.



Garrison Keillor (Radio Host of A Prairie Home Companion)



Steve Wozniak  
(Apple co-founder)



Scott Simon (National Public Radio Host of "Weekend Edition" Saturday)



Francis Ford Coppola (Movie Director)



## Organic Energy

*Continued from Page 17*

break, or materials to create the feed stock, such as silicates in the case of photovoltaics, will become scarce or environmentally damaging.

It's tempting to try to solve our energy problems with billion dollar investments in nifty big science technologies. But that's an incomplete answer, which will lead us right back to where we started from. Shifting to an organic energy system doesn't provide one big solution to our problems, but it does offer a multitude of smaller, more sustainable and easily digestible, ones.

San Francisco has an opportunity to become a leader in an organic energy movement. City policy makers are currently weighing how best to close the Potrero Power Plant's units four, five, and six; the largest unit, three, should become unnecessary once the Trans Bay Cable is operational in 2010. Four options are on the table: additional transmission; the development of a new, City-owned, generating facility; repowering four, five and six to make them less dirty; and investing in an organic energy system. A hard-look should be taken at all of them. Perhaps it's time, though, for San Francisco to embrace not only a slow, organic food system and smart land use planning, but a similar concept as applied to the way we produce and consume energy.



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– Janet J.





## Pollution

*Continued from Front Page*

fumes from the Channel Street wastewater pump station, Bridge's Crescent Cove apartments follow the railroad track's crescent curve on one side and face 280 on the other. The complexes' parking lot sits directly under the freeway. "Before I moved in [to Crescent Cove], traditional Chinese friends of mine told me facing a freeway like that is bad feng shui. But I got used to it. But I'm still not used to the terrible odor from the wastewater pump in the mornings," said a Crescent Cove resident, who then swiped his finger along an exterior windowsill to show the accumulated dust. Though it's hard to ignore the constant whoosh of vehicles speeding overhead, many residents say that double-paned windows help seal out the noise and air pollution, and most residents spend their off-hours inside. Rather than trees, many condominium dwellers benefit from the shelter of nearby taller buildings, which serve as noise and air pollution barriers.

"Air pollutant exposures and health effects are much higher for people living near freeways and other busy roadways," the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) reported in 2008. A recent Bay Area study found that children living within 75 meters of a freeway had almost four times the prevalence of asthma when compared to children living more than 300 meters away. Yet, in a peninsula city with uneven topography, there's virtually no way to avoid building near freeways. And strong winds can intensify freeway pollution in some neighborhoods by directing emissions right at them.

Last November, San Francisco became the first United States city to require developers to assess new residential projects of 10 units or more for their proximity to traffic and associated risk of indoor particulate matter. If indoor particulate matter were estimated to exceed a certain level, developers are required to install ventilation systems that reduce indoor pollutants by 80 percent.

According to SFPDH, air pollution hot spots created by freeways are not currently regulated by state and federal air quality regulations. In 2005, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) recommended against constructing residential buildings within 500 feet of a freeway. In 2007, the San Francisco Planning Department began requiring that developments near air pollution hot spots conduct air quality assessments and mitigation. "The 2005 CARB guidance was voluntary and was not enforced by Planning or other responsible City agencies. The CARB

guidance also did not offer any mitigation consistent with building in hot spot areas. San Francisco Public Health Department used the CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] process, and the City designed the new law both to create an enforceable requirement and to create a process where the impact could be mitigated," said Rajiv Bhatia, SFPDH's Director of Environmental Health. The new requirement doesn't apply to existing residential developments. Bhatia, whose study, *Developing Approaches to Traffic-Related Hot Spots*, provided the basis for the Indoor Air Quality Ordinance, said a new law would be required to regulate existing buildings.

On the other side of Channel Street's veritable condominium row, which extends from 7th to 4th streets along Mission Creek, sit the Mission Bay library branch, a Phil's coffee shop, an environmentally-friendly drycleaner, and a senior housing complex for Section 8 tenants. In certain ways the strip, which is isolated from the surrounding South-of-Market streets, gives the impression of community, or that it might flower into one once all the construction stops. Many residents enjoy the neighborhood, especially now that the dust to earlier construction phases has settled.

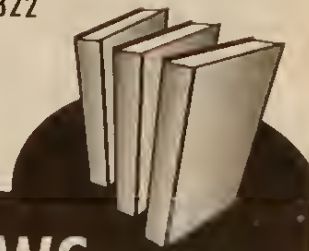
A landscaped dog park and tennis court next to the wastewater pump – owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission – walking paths along Mission Creek's wetland restoration, and a new kayak launching pad lend a sense of active engagement with the local environment. Yet some professionals in the neighborhood see it at most as a convenient place to live if you work downtown. "This is not really a neighborhood," Lynn Boquiren, a resident who works downtown, said. "This is for commuters, not for people to hang out. The new buildings in this neighborhood are also attracting young physicians and researchers from the UCSF [University of California, San Francisco] branch across the way."

The new law requires that developers include a disclosure and mitigation agreement in their leases. The original requirement for an informational plaque – which would have been placed in buildings located within a "Potential Roadway Exposure Zone" – was ultimately removed from the ordinance, according to Tom Rivard, SFPDH Senior Environmental Health Specialist. The ventilation systems, not to mention the pollution testing, are expensive: it can cost roughly \$700 a year for a ventilation system for one unit. But the annual cost of medical problems associated with pollution, estimated at \$2,100

*Continued on Page 22*

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Saturday 1 pm - 6 pm  
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## LIBRARY NEWS

Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Manager

Jasmin Springer, Mission Bay Branch Children's Librarian

### Interim Services during Potrero Branch Closure

Bookmobile service will be provided on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the north side of 1502 Mariposa Street, adjacent to the Jackson Park Recreation Center building. Services include borrowing and returning, reserving or picking up, and obtaining or renewing a library card.

Storytime for children, from birth to five years old, is offered at 10:30 a.m. on March 5, 12, 19 at St. Teresa's community hall, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street.

Thursday, March 26 at 9:30 a.m., the Fratello Marionettes will perform Vaudeville Follies, a marionette variety show presented in the spirit of the old-time music hall. This program is suitable for children of all ages. St. Teresa's community hall, Connecticut and 19th streets. Enter on Connecticut Street.

The Potrero Branch blog, <http://potrerolibrarysfpl.blogspot.com>, provides a forum for sharing updates on building progress, library programs, community events, and other news while our beloved branch is closed for renovation.

### Potrero Library Campaign

The Potrero Neighborhood Library Campaign Committee meets monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. If you'd like to join the committee, please contact Tina Tom at Friends of the Library 626.7512, extension 106; [tina.tom@friendssfpl.org](mailto:tina.tom@friendssfpl.org).

### Mission Bay Library

The Mission Bay Library is located at 960 Fourth Street, at Berry, near AT&T Park. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 1 to 6 p.m.; Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. The Muni N and T lines are a block away, at Fourth and King Streets, and street parking is on Channel Street, also a block away. The branch phone number is 355.2838. Additional branch information can be found at <http://missionbaylibrary.blogspot.com>.

Librarian Jasmin has returned after a four-month hiatus, and will resume the library's lapsit and storytime programs. Please drop by to say hello.

### March Programs

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. and Fridays 4 p.m. Baby/Toddler Lapsits for ages birth to three.

Thursdays, 11 a.m. Preschool Storytime, for ages three to five.

March 18, 6:30 p.m. A Talk and Tasting with Cowgirl Creamery's Sue Conley.

March 21, 2 p.m. Eastenders Repertory Company presents *Pride Open*, an ensemble-created storytelling project exploring our contemporary conceptions of sexual identity.

March 25, 6:30 p.m. Children's yoga. Certified yoga instructor, Tatjana Rmus, will lead a class for children ages three to five and their caregivers. Bring a mat or a towel.

March 28, 4 p.m. Dragon Theatre Puppets presents: "The Journey of George the Garden Gnome," a puppet show for children of all ages.

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## Farleys

Continued from Page 9

neighbors and provide environments and services that attract them to our shops."

The economic downturn hasn't helped, either. "The economy is affecting everything. Previously, coffee had been bullet proof. Business had been very good. I've worked hard and have worked with wonderful people. Still, business is not as good," said Hillyard.

Farley's customers are greeted with work from local artists, which changes monthly, starting with a welcoming reception. The window box display also changes monthly, and provides a forum for people to display their collectables. According to Hillyard, women's hats, My Little Pony, salt and pepper shakers and, recently, 1959 Chevy memorabilia, have all been featured.

Farley's hosts a large number of community gatherings, from Easter egg coloring and pumpkin carving to the annual Halloween Pet Parade, for which Hillyard serves as grand marshal. In 2008 more than 70 of the neighborhood's pets paraded up 18th street, with 50 of them taking home trophies. "This is a wonderful neighborhood and incredible spirit not commonly found," remarked Hillyard, who proudly observed that proceeds from the 2008 Pet Parade were donated to the Potrero Branch Library.

Farley's stocks 400 magazine titles, and is staffed by a dozen students and musicians, not counting former

employees who still like to hang out at the café. Each week Farley's sells 3,000 cups of coffee, 400 pounds of coffee beans, 400 cups of tea, and 250 muffins and scones

The Hillyard family includes son Darby, who lives on the Hill, Chris, an Oakland resident, and Cyrena, who lives in Pasadena, all of whom have helped out at Farley's. Darby still works behind the counter a few weekends a month. Chris will open Farley's East, in Oakland at Grand and Broadway, this spring.

Hillyard is a founding member of the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses. He still lives above Farley's, though he bought a home in Bolinas six years ago and likes to mountain bike and kayak when he's there. He regularly practices yoga at Yoga Sita with Susannah Bruder, and is active at the San Francisco Zen Center. "The joy of my life is my four grandchildren," he added proudly, Coji eight years old, Malia two and a half, Marin three, and Makenna almost two.

On March 17 Hillyard encourages View readers to stop by Farley's, pick-up a button or a 20-year commemorative hoodie, grab some soda, bread and cookies and listen to live Irish music and Irish bagpipers outside scare away enemies. In the evening the tables and chairs will be cleared, and Farley's will turn into a dance hall with "The Soul Delights" performing '60s music.

Farley's is located at 1315 18th Street; 648.1545; farleyscoffee.com. It's open Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

# The Continuing Adventures of an Anthropologist-at-Large

By Dave "Doc" Matsuda

I returned from Iraq last May and was presented with a stark choice. Even before I'd shipped my helmet and bullet proof vest back to a military demobilization facility, California State University, East Bay and the College of San Mateo asked me to return to teaching anthropology and developmental psychology classes. Simultaneously, the U.S. military's Human Terrain System wanted me to educate the armed forces about how to effectively use non-lethal cultural knowledge. While campus life has long been my first love, I decided to leave public education for what I now believe is my highest calling: working as an anthropologist-at-large to teach the military about how to change the nature of warfare.

My plan was to work from home and travel to domestic and foreign academic conferences and military briefings. After spending a year in Iraq my family needed attention. Kristi – with whom I'll celebrate 25 years of marriage this year – and I went to couples counseling. Not for any particular issue, but as a precaution against the problems that arise from being apart for a lengthy period, and to help exorcise any undetected post traumatic stress demons. I delighted in rediscovering my two daughters, who'd aged a lifetime while I was overseas. Katie, our oldest, confided in me, invited me on adventures with her friends, and shared her enthusiasm for gymnastics. Kimi who, depending on the day, is 11 going on 25 or seven, had become an independent socialite, continually off to sleepovers with friends.

As an anthropologist-at-large I wrote papers on the uses of non-lethal cultural knowledge, delivering them at academic conferences and military briefings; attended scenario development conferences in which I co-authored Army training exercises; and acted as a cultural adviser to officers at numerous Mission Readiness Exercises, or MRXs.

It was at one of these MRXs that the unthinkable happened. I was posted to Fort Lewis, Washington, as the temporary substitute for a noted military-scholar who was going to

deploy as the cultural adviser for the unit that will be the next "Corps" – second in command of theatre wide operations – in Iraq. But as I worked to set-up the deploying cultural adviser for success by putting in 18 hour days, the commanding general and his staff began to take notice. What at the time seemed to be good natured ribbing, "Doc, you're coming with us right?" was, in hindsight, a psychological operations campaign aimed at stuffing me into the luggage for another Iraq tour.

My retorts, "Hey, I just got home," and "I may be dumb, but I'm not stupid," soon gave way to the sympathetic refrain, "Yeah, I wish I was going with you guys, but..." The trap had been sprung. I was asked to meet with the I-Corp's three-star commanding general. Sensing my reluctance to deploy again less than a year after returning home, the general said, and here I paraphrase, "The United States is really two countries. We are a big country, and that's how we got into this mess by thinking that we can push our weight around. We're also a great country when people like you step forward and through cultural knowledge enable us to form the mutually beneficial relationships with Iraqis that will result in true partnership, their full sovereignty, and a withdrawal that honors both sides now and in the future. I believe in the anthropological concept of do no harm. Let's work together to make it the baseline for operations."

Note to self: I may be both dumb and stupid. I agreed to another Iraqi deployment as a cultural adviser to the I-Corps. A further complication: the noted military-scholar, who I worked so hard to set up for success, has bowed out for health reasons. And so I'm, at least for now, the cultural advisor to the commanding general of I-Corps. Stay tuned to the View for what promises to be an interesting and unpredictable renewed "Going to War" series.



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# Police Blotter

**February 20, 1:40 a.m., Stolen Property, Conspiracy, Burglary of a Vehicle, Indiana and Mariposa streets:** Officer Ochoa was on patrol in the area of Indiana and Mariposa when he observed two subjects suspiciously walking away from a parked vehicle. The subjects jumped into another car as Officer Ochoa headed towards them. The suspect vehicle then drove away at a high rate of speed. Several officers arrived to assist in taking the suspects into custody, without incident. After searching the suspects' vehicle, officers found numerous stolen items in the car and were able to contact most of the owners of those items in order to return them.

**February 12, 1:53 p.m., Loaded Gun in Car, Possession of Gun by a Prohibited Person:** Bayview plain clothes team members were on foot in Potrero Hill looking for a subject who was wanted. Officer Mustafich advised officers that a vehicle, with the possible subject inside, was approaching. Officer Alcaraz spotted the car, which parked across from where the officers were standing. The car driver opened the door, and Officer Alcaraz saw a gun in the door pocket. Officer Alcaraz immediately informed other officers about the gun. The officers then took the suspect into custody. The suspect and the gun were transported to Bayview for further investigation. CSI responded and processed the gun.

**February 11, 9 p.m., Stolen Car Recovered, Possession of Burglary Tools, Warrant Arrest, Kansas and Mariposa streets:** Officers Robinson and Fuentes responded to an incident in which a male was attempting to break into a car. The officers spotted the car and passenger, who matched the description of individual with an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The officers spoke with the occupants, who were unable to provide identification. The officers seized the vehicle keys, which had been tampered with, and made contact with the car's registered owner. The owner told the officers that he didn't give anyone permission to take his car. Another witness positively identified the suspects and the car. Both suspects were taken into custody without incident and transported to Bayview Station.

**February 10, 3:51 p.m., Cocaine Offense, Warrant Arrest, Dakota Street:** Bayview's housing team members responded to the area of Dakota Street regarding squatters in a vacant unit. The officers searched one of the units, and found a person hiding in a closet. The suspect was placed under arrest and searched. The officers located what appeared to be narcotics on the suspect. The

suspect was transported to Bayview Station, where officers discovered an outstanding warrant for the suspect.

**February 10, 8:15 p.m., Discharging Firearm, Negligent Manner, 1700 Block of Connecticut:** Officer Ellis of the narcotics unit was in the area of Connecticut Street when he heard numerous gun shots. Bayview plain clothes team members and uniformed officers responded to the area. Officers Kirchner and Rightmire located the house in which a man with a gun ran. Officers Kirchner and Rightmire made entry, and located eight subjects inside the premise, as well as a rifle. The officers took possession of the rifle. A few blocks away, Officer Singleton located spent casings on the ground, which were the same caliber as the rifle located by officers. All subjects were cleared through the system and released to their respective parents. The subjects were detained only; no arrest was made. No one was injured during the incident.

**February 9, 12:44 a.m., Warrant Arrest, En Route to Outside Jurisdiction, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, 17th and Connecticut streets:** Officers Lucchetti and Cader responded to calls regarding gunfire heard by several people. Witnesses also advised Police Headquarters that there were people going through a car, trying to steal it. The officers detained several people in the area who matched the suspects' descriptions. The officers found a weapon on one of the suspects, who also had a warrant for his arrest. The other suspects advised officers that they were trying to start their car, but it backfired, causing a loud bang, which people thought was gunfire. The officers transported three suspects to Bayview Station and discovered a warrant for another suspect. The third suspect was released.

**February 5, 10:36 p.m., Drunk Driving, 25th and Pennsylvania:** Officers Guzman and Alvarenga were conducting traffic enforcement at the intersection of 25th and Pennsylvania. The officers observed a vehicle run the stop sign at that intersection. The officers followed the vehicle, which entered the freeway and took the Cesar Chavez exit. The officers pulled the vehicle over, and spoke to the driver, who smelled of alcohol. The officers identified the driver via his drivers' license, and advised him regarding a field sobriety test. The suspect refused, and was transported to a facility where blood was drawn. The officers placed the suspect under arrest for driving drunk without further incident.



**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **April 14th**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Potrero Boosters** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: **March 31st**, 7 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB)** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz) or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **March 10th**, 10 a.m.

**Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **March 3rd**, 6 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club** meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org). Next Meeting: **March 3rd**, 7pm.

**Potrero Hill Garden Club** usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.1926 for details.

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## Homicides

Continued from Front Page

these cases."

SFPD Lieutenant Mike Stasko, head of the homicide unit, declined to be interviewed for this story. Though he initially agreed to answer emailed questions, Stasko ultimately did not provide a response, and denied access to recent homicide case files. Neither Supervisors Ross Mirakirimi, head of the Board of Supervisor's public safety committee, nor Sophie Maxwell, District 10 supervisor and public safety committee member, returned calls for comment about the City's homicide closure rate.

In the past SFPD has identified a number of challenges to solving murders. Lengthy homicide trials soak up investigators' time, taking them away from other cases. The rise of non-gang street violence has made developing leads more challenging. From 2006 to 2007 the number of murders suspected to be gang related dropped to 16 cases from 25, even as total homicides increased. During the same period dispute-related murders rose from 22 cases to 30. Another impediment has been the lack of witnesses willing to come forward, often because they fear retaliation.

Anthony Ribera, director of University of San Francisco's Criminal Justice Institute and a former San Francisco police chief, questions the effectiveness of community policing efforts that are supposed to create stronger ties between law enforcement and residents of high violence areas.

"I think we'd have to look first at why witnesses aren't coming forward, and is community policing working in San Francisco. Is that relationship between the police and the community a reality or is it just lip service?" Ribera said. Community policing efforts include putting more officers on the streets and participating in neighborhood meetings.

Others, however, feel that the community must also do its part. Ishmael Burch, family director of the Bayview Hunters Point Community Beacon Center, said police officers have visited Bayview schools in an effort to establish good relationships with the children. But better police practices aren't the only solution, according to Burch. "A lot of time it takes people in the community coming forward when they see something happen," said Burch, who was formerly a community organizer with the now defunct community policing program Safety Network.

Change may be coming. The imminent retirement of Police Chief Heather Fong offers an opportunity for renewed accountability. "One of the interview questions in the new police chief search will be 'how will you hold your people responsible?'" Commissioner Sparks said.

The recently completed *Final Report of the San Francisco Department Organizational Assessment* by the Police Executive Research Forum, which assessed SFPD's organizational structure and practices, recommended putting some homicide inspectors on the night shift so they can get to the scene and identify leads more



San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty looks on as San Francisco General Hospital Orthopaedic Trauma Chief Dr. Ted Miclau, SFGH Chief Executive Officer Gene O'Connell, and San Francisco Department of Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the University of California, San Francisco Orthopaedic Trauma Institute at SFGH. The 14,000-square-foot, newly renovated space includes state-of-the-art laboratories, the latest medical equipment, and enough room for 70 physicians, rehabilitation specialists, scientists, clinical researchers and support staff. Photograph by Susan Merrell.

quickly. The report also called for expanding the homicide division from the current 20 police officers to 28, including personnel dedicated to handling administrative tasks that eat up inspectors' time. And the report suggested making community policing a more important part of training and promotions. A schedule has yet to be adopted to implement these recommendations.

Homicide clearance rates can improve over time. In 2007 the SFPD closed 26 cases from 2005 and 2006, pushing the combined clearance rate for those two years to 47 percent. The national average in 2007 was 61 percent.

## Hairdresser

Continued from Page 8

To say that de Alba is Garland's number one fan is an understatement. He owns an extensive Garland / Oz memorabilia collection, including a pair of Garland's shoes worn in her last movie, *I Could Go On Singing*, as well as a number of musical arrangements handwritten by Mort Lindsey. De Alba currently lives in Las Vegas, where he continues to perform tributes to Garland.

For more information about de Alba visit his website at [david-de-alba.com](http://david-de-alba.com) or contact him at [cubanlegend@cox.net](mailto:cubanlegend@cox.net).

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## Pollution

*Continued from Page 18*

a year per unit, trumps filtering expenses, according to the SFDPH study. The net economic benefit from the ordinance is \$1,400 per impacted unit each year. "...the net economic impacts for San Francisco as a whole are positive," stated the SFDPH report.

Instant neighborhoods, like the one on Channel Street, appeal to the business class in part due to the nearby greenbelt. But what good does an active life in the urban outdoors – jogging, playing tennis, kayaking, dog-walking, and socializing – do for people that live directly under or within meters of major freeways? Ventilation systems may meet the latest green building standards, but cannot be installed outdoors. "I find it odd that they're building that area up as a green area. I don't know why people would want to be near those areas. I've kayaked up that creek and it's pretty disgusting," said Mark Walther, a lawyer who lives at 22nd and Pennsylvania streets, kitty corner to 280, the 22nd Street Caltrain station, and a Muni depot and repair building.

In 2005, a Muni pipe that was attached to underground diesel tanks ruptured. For weeks the accident went undiscovered. Thirty thousand gallons of fuel were released into the ground and nearby Islais Creek. "[Muni] never notified the community," said Walther. "I smelled it and then there was an article about it in the paper months later. Muni said they had completely contained the spill, but that didn't address the air quality impact. I called

CalEPA about Muni's failure to post a Proposition 65 warning and never received a response. I've only been here five years, but I've wanted to get a blood toxin sample done. They look at heavy metals in the blood," said Walther. Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, requires businesses to notify Californians about significant amounts of chemicals in the products they purchase, in their homes or workplaces, or that are released into the environment.

Walther's home has double-paned windows facing Caltrain's tracks. "Anytime during the week, Caltrain makes the outside of the building uninhabitable. The train comes every ten minutes during rush hour. We've got a nice deck but there's a backyard that's unusable." Walther and his wife, who is herself a commuter, were lucky to move into a house that was built only ten years ago, and features soundproof windows and walls. Their neighbors aren't as fortunate. They live in a century-old brick building without insulation or double-paned windows. The neighbors recently cut-down two fruit trees because they believed that the fruit, which had an omnipresent layer of black dust, was inedible. In a creative attempt to improve ambient air quality conditions, Walther is ordering pollution-absorbing Dendrocalamus Asper bamboo from Los Angeles, in hopes that it will grow tall enough to surround their CalTrain-facing patio on the second floor.

But to many commuters, proximity to freeways, Caltrain, and Muni lines are a desirable feature and a deciding factor in their decision to buy into a given complex. Only a block from

Walther's house is one of several new condominium developments catering, in part, to commuters. Esprit Park has 142 units on offer, ranging in price from roughly \$700,000 to more than \$1 million. The Build Inc. development consists of a newly constructed building – which is encircled by the 20th Street bridge, 280 freeway, and Caltrain station – and a 19th century brick wine cellar whose interior has been revamped. A third-story resident in the new building could practically reach out and touch a car driving on the bridge's right-hand lane. Tucked between concrete roadways, the view is not of the Bay, but of cars speeding by. The City's new pollution mitigation law doesn't apply to the development, since Esprit construction began three years ago.

Despite the lull in the housing market, freeway condominiums are steadily selling. According to Daire Heneghan of Palisade Builders, the condominiums being built along the Bayview, Dogpatch, and Mission Bay waterfront raise land values tremendously. To maximize profit, a developer can pay an in-lieu fee to remove its requirement of providing affordable housing units.

"Why not address the source of the pollution rather than going at it backwards, posing mitigation for the developers?" Mark Walther asked. Addressing pollution sources is what People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER) has been trying to do in the Excelsior neighborhood, which is also located adjacent to the 280 and 101 freeways.

"The new law does not change zoning," said Charlie Sciamma, a

PODER community organizer. Like Dogpatch, Mission Bay, and Potrero Hill, parts of the Excelsior are zoned as production, distribution, and repair (PDR) status, a designation given to the most industrially concentrated areas, where residential use isn't recommended. "Most Core PDR activities are incompatible with most other uses due to noise, heavy truck traffic, and volatile emissions," explains the San Francisco Planning Department on its website. "It's tricky here because there's such a need for housing and so few opportunities for developing because of limited land," said Sciamma.

In 2008, a joint study sponsored by PODER and the Public Health Department found 17 diesel pollution hot spots in the Excelsior. The findings prompted the nonprofit and the Chinese Progressive Association to collaborate with the Municipal Transportation Authority (MTA) and San Francisco Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution last November calling for an MTA plan to reduce diesel truck pollution in residential neighborhoods by devising and enforcing better truck routes and upgrading grossly polluting vehicles to cleaner fuel.

"We've considered raising kids here," said Walther. "The house has a lot of room inside for kids, but there's no real outdoor play area because of the noise and air pollution." Walther believes he got a good deal on rent for moving into an industrial neighborhood. But right next door, expensive new condos demonstrate that, at least according to the market, pollution is a small price to pay for convenience. As long as you have double-paned windows, thick walls, a good sound system, and a flat-screen television.

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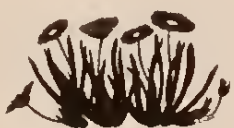
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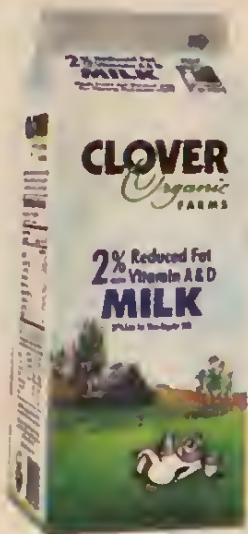
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